

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:442

ANSWERED ON:26.04.2000

FALL IN GROWTH RATE OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

A. VENKATESH NAIK;DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a steep fall in the growth rate of Gross Domestic Product in the third quarter of 1999-2000 due to continuous low production in the agricultural sector;
- (b) if so, the growth rate of Gross Domestic Product recorded from October to December, 1999 and percentage of decline therein as compared to that of the last year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the concrete steps being taken by the Union Government to check this decline in agricultural production?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.442 TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH APRIL, 2000 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) to (c): According to the quarterly estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) released by the Central Statistical Organisation, the growth rate of GDP at 1993-94 prices for the quarter, October-December, 1999 is 5.8% as compared to 7.8% for the corresponding period last year. As per the quarterly estimates, the growth rate of the sector 'Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing' during October-December, 1999 has been 0.5% as against 9.9% in the corresponding period of the previous year. There has been no continuous decline in the growth of Agriculture Sector. The decline in the growth rate of the sector, 'Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing' in the quarter, October-December, 1999 is due to lower growth of agricultural production in Kharif 1999 due to aberrant weather conditions resulting in lower area coverage and lower productivity of various crops like oilseeds, coarse cereals, pulses etc.

(d): To increase production and productivity in Agriculture, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in rice/wheat/coarse cereals Based Cropping System Area, National Pulse Development Project, Oilseeds Production Programme and Technology Mission on Cotton etc. Under these programmes/projects, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of Integrated Pest Management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and use of improved farm implements. Research is also being continuously undertaken to develop improved technologies so as to enhance the productivity and production of food grains in India. Field demonstrations on farmers' holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers is being organised for effective transfer of technology.